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INTELLIGENCE

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Premier Ky is considering a new move to strengthen the South Vietnamese armed forces.

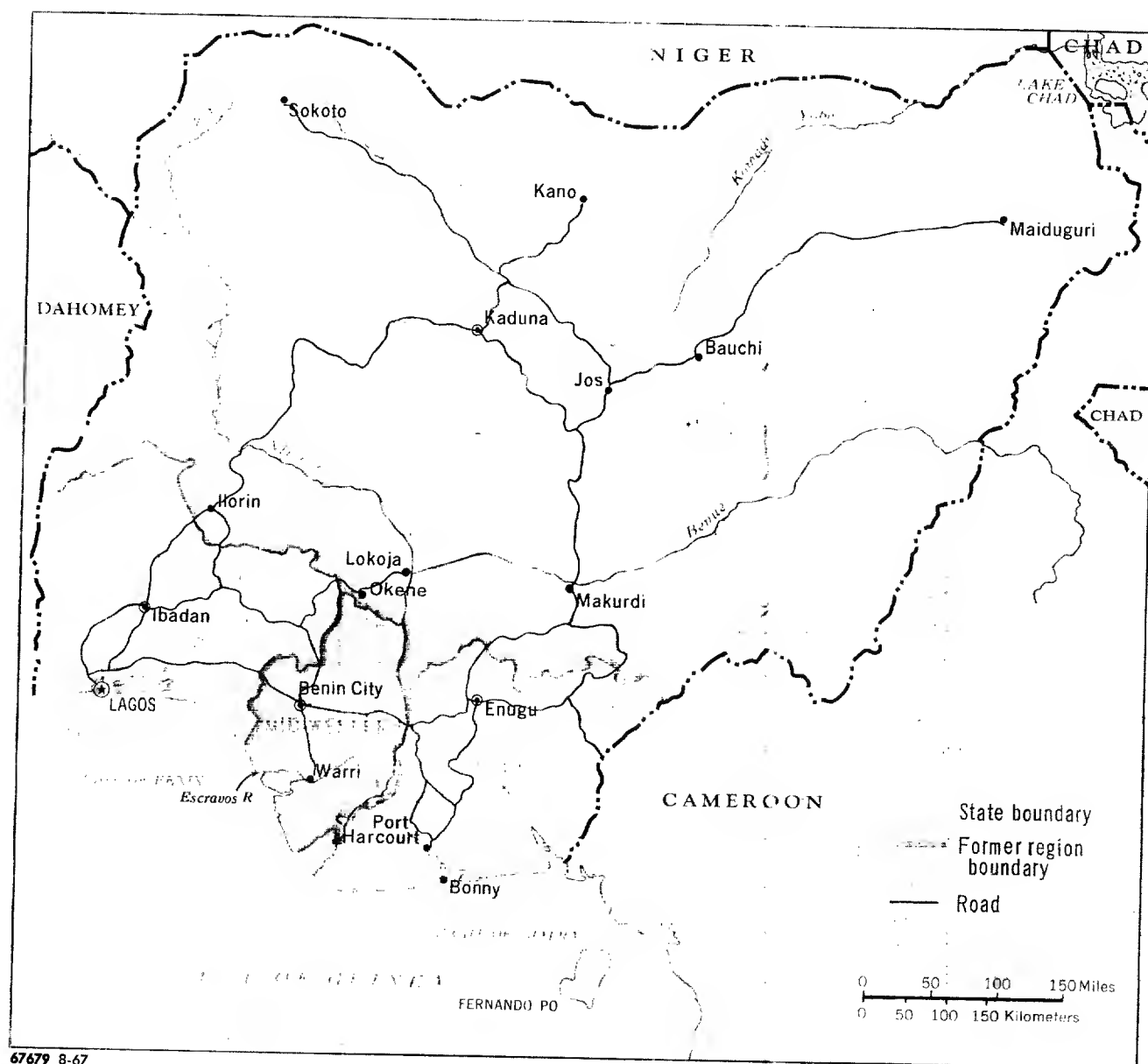
He told US officials recently that he plans to appoint the highly regarded Minister of Revolutionary Development, General Nguyen Duc Thang, to a key post on the army's Joint General Staff. In this post, Thang would be given the responsibility of revamping the paramilitary Regional and Popular Forces. He might also get a role in the control of the Military Security Service, the army's primary counterintelligence organization.

Thang may have been actively seeking such an assignment, believing that he can make the paramilitary forces into more effective organizations. In his view, these forces should be able to contribute more to the Revolutionary Development effort. To this end, he reportedly would institute a program of training designed to eliminate many of the frictions that have developed between the various paramilitary forces in the field.

Vietnamese [] have recently hinted at the possibility of a broader armed forces reorganization which might affect the cumbersome corps structures, but no action has yet been taken in this regard. []

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Nigeria: Federal forces now appear to have contained Biafran efforts to exploit the seizure of the Mid-West.

Federal troops reportedly defeated an advancing Biafran column on the main road to Lagos near the border between the West and the Mid-West. The Biafrans are said to have suffered numerous casualties and lost much of their equipment. In addition, a substantial federal force is established on the Mid-West coast, and other federal elements have reportedly arrived in the Okene area, scene of a rebel raid last week.

An appeal by Biafra's Ojukwu to the Yorubas in the West to join his fight against the federal regime--a major objective of his move into the Mid-West--has been rejected by the top Yoruba leaders. Both Chief Awolowo, the leading civilian in the military government, and Western Military Governor Adebayo have urged their fellow Yorubas to assist in bringing the Mid-West and East (Biafra) back under federal jurisdiction.

The Biafran invasion of the Mid-West has, however, led to an upswing in tribal violence. Although the police in Lagos and Ibadan now appear to be in control, numerous anti-Ibo incidents have occurred. In addition, Biafran troops in the Mid-West have reportedly killed a number of Hausas there.

(Map)

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Sierra Leone: Tensions within the five-month-old military regime are again on the rise.

Brigadier Juxon-Smith, the erratic chairman of the ruling National Reformation Council, has further strained his relations with other junta members by trying to usurp additional power. He has brought matters to a head by unilaterally canceling Sierra Leone's request to the UK for a military training team to replace the one now there. He has also reversed a council decision to release from prison two cronies of former prime minister Margai.

There are rumors that one of the important army members of the junta is actively plotting Juxon-Smith's overthrow. Juxon-Smith, despite his lack of a real power base, has managed to outmaneuver his opponents thus far and may well survive the present crisis.

Although most council members dislike Juxon-Smith, they have been hesitant to move against him, partly because of tribal factionalism among themselves and partly for fear that further instability would seriously exacerbate the country's regional and tribal differences. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

Congo (Kinshasa): Foreign Minister Bomboko is now in Rwanda discussing a proposal for the departure of Major Schramme's rebels from the Congo. Under the proposal, the rebel group would "surrender" to Bomboko in Rwanda. The whites would then be allowed to leave Rwanda, but most of the Katangan troops with them would eventually be returned to the Congo. Rebel leader Schramme may not want to negotiate at all. If he does, he probably would consider the guarantees envisaged for the Katangans inadequate. [] (Map)

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Israel-Jordan: Israel's attitude toward the Jordanians is hardening in the face of their efforts to sustain resistance among the Arabs in Jerusalem and on the West Bank. []

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[] Tel Aviv no longer considers it important to Israel that King Husayn be maintained in power. If this is the case, the Israelis would not be disposed to make face-saving concessions to the King in any talks on the future of the two areas. []

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 17 August 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

SNIE 36. 1-67, "The Situation and Prospects in the UAR"

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